



IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**STATEMENT OF REP. JOHN HOSTETTLER
ON DECISION TO DEPLOY MISSILE DEFENSES**

“I cannot overstate my support for President Bush’s decision to deploy a multi-layered defense system to protect the American people against a ballistic missile attack.

“If just one intercontinental ballistic missile was fired at the United States today we could do nothing to stop it from hitting its target. That is unacceptable when you consider the world we live in.

“September 11 proved that our enemies desire to cause mass American casualties. The growth and spread of missile technology mean more and more hostile nations and groups will have the capability to hit the U.S. mainland with an ICBM. As we’ve seen in recent weeks, the Axis of Evil nations - North Korea, Iran and Iraq - continue to develop, purchase, and sell advanced ballistic missile technologies.

“Knowing all this, we would be foolish not to proceed with a system designed to stop an incoming missile or, even better, prevent one from being fired in the first place.

“The technological capability to destroy an incoming missile exists. We must continue to move forward with research and development, testing and old-fashioned American ingenuity to deploy the most effective system against ballistic missiles.”